

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

The Claims Added by Amendment Include Allowable Subject Matter

Further to the Remarks section in Applicant's August 27, 2007 Reply, and in view of various telephone conferences with the Examiner, Applicant wishes to include the following Remarks that should help distinguish Applicant's new claims 251-279 which were added by Amendment in the August 27, 2007 Amendment.

Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that no art has been uncovered that discloses or teaches a method of producing fused silica fiber optic preforms that includes at least the feature of providing a substantially sealed chamber and controlling at least one of temperature, pressure, and dopant quantity within the chamber, in combination with the other features recited in claim 251. The art relied upon by the Examiner to date includes manufacturing methods that may occur in a manufacturing facility.

While Applicant recognizes the Examiner's argument that "any environment such as a manufacturing building can be considered a chamber," Applicant also believes that the claims as presented, especially when fairly read in light of the specification, cannot be construed to read upon a method that simply occurs within a manufacturing building. By contrast, the method recited in claim 251 includes providing a substantially sealed chamber and controlling at least one of temperature, pressure, and dopant quantity within the chamber. There simply is no teaching of at least this feature in the cited art.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the

number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account listed on Applicant's initial application filing transmittal document.

Respectfully submitted,

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